

# MAIN OUTFALL SEWER



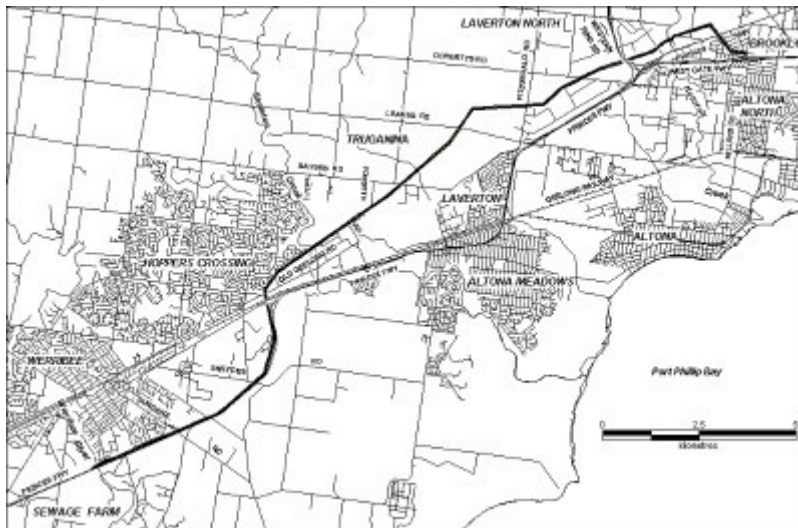
MAIN OUTFALL SEWER  
SOHE 2008



MAIN OUTFALL SEWER  
SOHE 2008



1 main outfall sewer collage



main outfall sewer plan

## Location

BROOKLYN AND LAVERTON NORTH AND TRUGANINA AND HOPPERS CROSSING AND WERRIBEE AND WILLIAMS LANDING, BRIMBANK CITY, HOBSONS BAY CITY, WYNDHAM CITY

## Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

HOBSONS BAY CITY

WYNDHAM CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1932

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO13

HO169

HO26

## VHR Registration

September 13, 2001

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 30, 2001

What is significant?

The Main Outfall Sewer was constructed in 1892-4 and was a vital link in the sewerage system of Melbourne which, when it was constructed in the 1890s, was the largest civil engineering project ever undertaken in Victoria. The Main Outfall Sewer consists of a semicircular brick or concrete lined channel (in places arched over to form a circular tunnel with an earth covering) and three brick arched aqueducts. The sewer was constructed by seven contractors employing 1300 workers and cost £240,748. During the 1880s the phenomenal growth of Melbourne led to a crisis in sanitation. The situation was exacerbated by the existence within the metropolitan area of many municipalities which would have to agree on any sewerage system. A Royal Commission recommended the formation of a Metropolitan Board of Works, comprised of commissioners from each of the local government authorities, with responsibility for both water supply and sewerage. Eminent British engineer James Mansergh was appointed to advise on a suitable system. At a time when most cities dumped their untreated wastes directly into rivers and the sea, Mansergh advised treatment of Melbourne's sewage by broad irrigation with a capacity large enough able to deal with the expansion in population expected over 50 years. The system he conceived and which was implemented in only slightly modified form began with a water closet at every property which delivered the sewage by gravity through a network of underground sewers of increasing diameter to a steam pumping station at Spotswood (VHR 1555) where it was forced up wrought iron rising mains to Brooklyn to begin its 25 kilometre journey along the Main Outfall Sewer to the sewage farm at Werribee. As could be expected, the Main Outfall Sewer has had much repair and replacement of fabric over the last century and its function has now been entirely replaced by the Western Trunk Sewer. Nonetheless, there is still extensive original fabric remaining within its easement.

How is it significant?

The Main Outfall Sewer is of historical and scientific (engineering) significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Main Outfall Sewer is historically important as an artefact of the process of development of Melbourne into a modern metropolis. The decision in 1890 to build a sewerage system with a capacity well in excess of the contemporary population was far sighted. The project not only addressed an existing sanitary crisis, but also enabled expansion of the city into new areas because the 'downstream' sewerage infrastructure was of

sufficient capacity. Unlike the rest of the system which is underground and out of sight, the Main Outfall Sewer is a visible manifestation of the entire system. The Main Outfall Sewer is also a tangible link with the formation of the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works whose role as the unifying force for major infrastructure projects in Melbourne over the last century is of enormous historical importance. The construction of the system is all the more remarkable because, although conceived during the years of the 1880s Boom, its completion was achieved during the years of the catastrophic 1890s Depression.

The Main Outfall Sewer is of scientific (engineering) importance as a major link in the most extensive engineering project undertaken in Victoria to that date. The concrete and brick open and covered sewer is a fine example of the technology of the period, exhibiting a high level of integrity. The three major red brick aqueducts over Kororoit Creek, Skeleton Creek and the Werribee River are excellent examples of multi-spanned, arched masonry bridges.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object, except those listed below.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

\* all new sewerage, water supply and drainage works [within the sewer reserve that do not materially impact on the brick and concrete sewer], provided that plans are given to the Executive Director in advance of works

\* repairs and maintenance which replace like with like

\* construction and maintenance of a recreational trail including,

- emergency and safety works including collapsing and backfilling sections of covered and buried sewer where structure is unsafe and making safe manhole and inspection openings.

- installation of safety measures in sections of open sewer such as step irons, ladders and drainage systems and fencing

- demolition and removal of redundant or unsafe buildings and structures including ventilation stacks and the old depot site at Princes Highway

- removal of trees and vegetation where required, pest and weed control

- repair, replacement and new construction of fences and gates

- removal of hard and soft rubbish including piles of soil, screenings and road waste or modification works as required

- protection, maintenance and relocation of utility assets within the sewer reserve

- hard and soft landscaping including landforming

- erection of directional and interpretative signage

- modification of the sewer at road crossings for use as underpasses where feasible including opening of covered sections of sewer and backfilling sewer for access ramps

- removal of the sewer at Doherty's Road to allow a new culvert underpass

- construction of overpass structures as required provided that plans are given to the Executive Director in advance of works

- strengthening of MOS road crossings as required

- lighting of MOS conduit for underpasses

Construction dates 1892,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place,

Other Names MELBOURNE OUTFALL SEWER, MOS, Federation Trail,

Hermes Number 11868

Property Number

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## History

Contextual History:History of Place:

The part underground and above ground sewer was constructed in 1896-97 as part of the Melbourne Sewerage Scheme by the recently formed Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. In the 1960s concrete covered viaducts were erected across Koroit & Skeleton Creek and the Werribee River to replace the brick and bluestone

open channelled viaducts. The sewer ceased operating in the 1990s.

## **Extent of Registration**

1. All the land contained in the approximately 40m wide sewerage easement beginning on the west side of Millers Road Brooklyn between Cypress Avenue and Primula Avenue and continuing to the south side of the Princes Highway then from the north side of the Princes Highway to the east side of Little Boundary Road then from the west side of Little Boundary Road to the east side of the Western Ring Road then from the west side of the Western Ring Road to the north side of Doherty's Road Laverton North then from the south side of Doherty's Road to the east side of Fitzgerald Road then from the west side of Fitzgerald Road to the north side of Leakes Road then from the south side of Leakes Road to the north side of Sayers Road then from the south side of Sayers Road Laverton to the east side of Forsyth Road then from the west side of Forsyth Road Truganina to the north side of Old Geelong Road Hoppers Crossing then from the south side of Old Geelong Road to the north side of the Melbourne to Geelong Railway then from the south side of the Princes Highway alongside the Princes Freeway (Maltby By-pass) Werribee to where the easement finishes on the north side of the Princes Freeway at the Melbourne Water Western Treatment Plant as shown on Diagram 1932 held by the Executive Director

2. All of the structure forming the Main Outfall Sewer including open and covered brick and concrete channels, brick aqueducts over Kororoit Creek, Skeleton Creek and Werribee River, all tunnels and culverts, but excluding all fabric associated with later modifications to the Main Outfall Sewer, the later concrete aqueducts and all infrastructure relating to the Western Trunk Sewer.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*